

Demarco Webster, Jr., 14;
 Deandre Banks, 16;
 Elijah House, 16;
 Clarence Coakley, 16;
 Javon Wilson, 15;
 Diego Alvarado, 16;
 Christopher Brandon, 16;
 Gregory Livingston, 15;
 Malik McNeese, 16;
 Bruce Owens, 15;
 Diabolique Anderson, 16;
 Willie Woodus, 15;
 Clavonte Eubanks, 15;
 Takiya Holmes, 11;
 Lavontay White, Jr., 2;
 Deshawn Martin, 15;
 Mishawn Green, 16;
 Kanari Gentry-Bowers, 12;
 Laquan Allen, 14;
 Jaquarius Davis, 16;
 Julio Cesar Garcia-Lara, 15;
 Kahari Stovall, 16;
 Diego Villada, 15;
 Jesus Escobar, 16;
 Alexis Stubbs, 12; and
 Jazebel Aleman, 3.

Mr. Speaker, not one of these children was over 16 years old. They should be learning to drive, learning to code, playing with dolls, and enjoying their own summer recess. That will never again be possible because of this Chamber's inaction.

RECOGNIZING MONROE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Monroe County, Michigan's bicentennial celebration.

Founded on July 14, 1817, Monroe County is the second oldest county in Michigan and is named in honor of our Nation's fifth President, James Monroe.

Home to the River Raisin National Battlefield Park, Monroe County takes great pride in preserving local history and telling the story of the War of 1812 and those who fought to secure our freedoms.

□ 1015

Monroe County is blessed with many precious natural resources, wildlife, and outdoor areas for the community to enjoy. Whether it is fishing for wall-eye on Lake Erie or watching waterfowl in the unique coastal marshes, the outdoor opportunities are the finest in the Nation.

Serving as an important transportation hub, Monroe County features the largest highway gateway into Michigan and the State's only international port on Lake Erie.

Monroe County is also known for its rich agricultural heritage, as well as its strong manufacturing presence, including the headquarters of furniture manufacturer La-Z-Boy.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my gratitude to the many citizens and organizations that comprise the Monroe County Bicentennial Alliance. They

generously gave of their time to coordinate a number of special programs and events throughout the year. It is an honor to join with them to commemorate this exciting milestone for Monroe County, a place where the community proudly comes together to make it a special place to visit and call home.

Congratulations, Monroe County, on 200 years. I look forward to celebrating it with you.

HONORING MIKE MCGARVIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Mr. Mike McGarvin, a role model for one and all, and a gentleman who truly made a difference in his lifetime.

Mike was the beloved founder of the Poverello House, a homeless shelter in Fresno, California, which provides three meals a day, 365 days a year, to those in need, as well as clothing, medical services, and temporary shelter for those who are most vulnerable and have challenges in their life.

For decades, Mike served countless people in the Fresno area using one simple message: "Listen with compassion; give with a warm heart and a smile."

Think about that: Listen with compassion and give with a warm heart and a smile.

The lives of hundreds and thousands of individuals were made better because of Mike's helping hand. He will be remembered by all for his deep compassion and boundless kindness.

Mike was a role model for me and for all who knew him. He leaves a legacy of service and selflessness, both through the Poverello House and in the hearts of those people he touched throughout the years.

I join Mike's family and the supporters of the Poverello House over the years in honoring his life.

CONGRATULATIONS TO VALLEY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Valley Children's Hospital for their recent recognition as one of the Nation's top 50 children's hospitals in the country, which I represent. I have been there and know of the work they do.

In their annual Best Children's Hospitals report, U.S. News & World Report ranked the hospital in a host of key critical areas as among the top in pediatric orthopedics, pediatric diabetes and endocrinology, and pediatric gastroenterology and GI surgery.

To see these preemies in their beds and these young, little lives being saved as a result of the overall effort of the children's hospital is truly heartwarming.

We in the Valley have known for decades how highly skilled and dedicated the nurses, doctors, and staff are at Valley Children's Hospital. It was

founded more than 60 years ago with the mission to provide high-quality, comprehensive medical care to children, regardless of their ability to pay, and to continuously improve upon the health and well-being of these children. That is why, in part, the cuts that are being proposed to Medicaid are so devastating all around the country, but especially among our children who are not in a position to afford this kind of care.

Valley Children's Hospital has grown and is now the second largest children's hospital in California. It has many more patients than any other pediatric hospital north of San Diego. The hospital's emergency room is the only dedicated pediatric emergency room between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Valley Children's Hospital has been designated as a magnet nursing hospital by the American Nurses Credentialing Center, which is a recognition of true excellence in nursing care. Less than 3 percent of all hospitals in the United States earn this designation.

Once again, I am a regular visitor to this hospital. When you see the staff, who have an incredible heart, and all the loving care they provide, and you see the parents and families with their young babies and young children, you know that something special is going on here.

On behalf of my constituents in the Valley community, I would like to congratulate Valley Children's Hospital for their recent recognition as one of the Nation's top 50 children's hospitals.

I would also like to thank all of the dedicated staff, once again, who are committed to improving the health and well-being of not only the children of our Valley and in California, but across the Nation. We know that all of the nurses and physicians make a difference throughout our country.

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the work of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and, specifically, chapter 717.

My friends and neighbors there who serve in this chapter are working to erect a monument on the Treasure Coast of Florida to those who were injured in battle while defending our great Nation. They may have been targeted by a sniper, a victim of an improvised explosive device, or they may have been charging a hill somewhere in Vietnam.

The marker that they have worked to erect at Indian Riverside Park in Martin County will bring awareness and recognition to the true cost of freedom, which is the blood that is shed by selfless men and women who have served across the world in defense of

others because of their sense of duty to America.

I thank all members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart for never forgetting and never for one second taking for granted the price paid by our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coastguardsman.

May God bless the work they are doing.

ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today so that we think about the over 5 million Americans, including thousands of Floridians and nearly half a million American veterans, who are living with Alzheimer's and dementia.

Alzheimer's is the only one of the top 10 causes of death that cannot be prevented, cannot be cured, and cannot be slowed. As the sixth leading cause of death in Florida, and with so many affected by this incurable disease, we have to continue to stress the importance of early diagnosis and the treatment of Alzheimer's disease and related illnesses.

But awareness is never enough. As a member of the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease, I am determined to make progress for all those affected. We must act proactively to achieve breakthroughs in prevention and treatment. We also have to act to ensure that those who currently have Alzheimer's have the tools that are needed to manage their symptoms, reduce pain, and increase comfort.

Nearly half of all people with Alzheimer's and other dementias are in hospice care at the time of their passing, but less than half of nursing homes have some sort of palliative care program. For people with advanced dementia, palliative care improves their quality of life, controls costs, and enhances both patient and family satisfaction.

As the demand for this kind of care grows with the aging population, more has to be done to ensure that there is a workforce equipped to provide that care. That is why I recently signed onto the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act, a bipartisan bill that will help our Nation's seniors who are struggling with the effects of Alzheimer's.

I have spoken to a few Members in this House who have not been touched by this serious illness in one way or another. Whether they have been impacted personally, supported a loved one during a tough time, or prayed for a friend who needed help, we all know how difficult that situation is.

This is a great bill. I urge my fellow colleagues to think back to that person that they have known and how much this could have benefited them.

Mr. Speaker, let us take some decisive action to help patients with Alzheimer's and their families. Let's pass this bill.

DON'T REPEAL ACA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I would say to my friend who just spoke, if he wants to do something for Alzheimer's, don't pass the Senate Republican healthcare bill. It would devastate Medicaid and Alzheimer's victims who rely on Medicaid service.

Ensuring that every American has access to high-quality and affordable healthcare is the most important and enduring challenge, arguably, facing our Nation today. Ironically, we are closer than ever before to achieving that goal.

Since the Affordable Care Act was adopted, more than 20 million previously uninsured Americans have gained quality coverage. In fact, we have reduced the uninsured rate to the lowest level ever recorded. Americans no longer face punitive annual and lifetime limits, and they no longer have the fear of having their inadequate health insurance cut off if they dare get sick. Insurance companies can no longer refuse to cover Americans who suffer preexisting conditions, which is the case for tens of millions of Americans.

The Affordable Care Act has been the difference between life and death for adults who have been locked out of the system for years, for sick children who have reached their lifetime limits before they can even leave the hospital where they were born, for families bankrupted by a cancer diagnosis, and for everyday Americans that will require expensive treatments for the rest of their lives due to a chronic illness or accident.

The Republican effort to repeal this bill is a unilateral retreat from the progress made under the Affordable Care Act and from President Trump's own promise that there would be "insurance for everybody." I guess there was a footnote: except for 23 million.

This promise made by the President is not the only falsehood perpetrated by many of my friends on the other side of the aisle about the Affordable Care Act. Here are three more:

Falsehood number one: Republicans say costs are out of control.

The truth is, since the Affordable Care Act became law, healthcare costs have grown at the slowest rate in 50 years. That is right, the slowest rate in 50 years, and considerably below the decade preceding the adoption of the act. Republicans conveniently ignore the fact that, under their own repeal plan, their premiums would go up an average of 64 percent.

Falsehood number two: Republicans claim the Affordable Care Act is in a death spiral.

Well, this would come as news to the Congressional Budget Office, Standard & Poor's, and the American Academy of Actuaries, all of whom have concluded that the Affordable Care Act's individual markets are stable and

could continue to improve, except, of course, for Republicans talking it down.

Falsehood number three: Republicans say that insurers are fleeing the markets and consumers will have no choice.

The truth is the Affordable Care Act is not imploding, but Republicans have certainly tried to sow dysfunction and destroy the individual markets. In some places, they have succeeded. They have resorted to sabotaging the individual markets to fulfill their own false narrative. They killed the risk corridors that stabilized those markets and have used riders and must-pass spending bills to undermine premium stabilization programs.

This has resulted in huge losses to some insurers, causing them to pull out of markets, understandably, and to increase premiums when they otherwise would not have. Ironically, the same premium stabilization programs that the Republicans have attacked since 2014 are actually in their own repeal bill.

The Trump administration has refused to commit to making the cost-sharing reduction payments that lower out-of-pocket costs for consumers. That has caused premiums to go up. Without those payments, Americans will see premiums increase by an average of 19 percent.

□ 1030

One Blue Cross Blue Shield executive noted the premium increases would be 8 percent if the cost-sharing reduction payments were guaranteed.

Other insurers have explicitly stated that their participation is contingent on those payments. Threatening not to make those payments, of course, undermines the system.

Those payments are not the only aspect of ObamaCare the Trump administration has sabotaged. They have also disrupted enrollment in individual markets by refusing to enforce the individual mandate, by cutting the open enrollment period in half, and by refusing to promote the enrollment itself on television.

Republicans in Congress and the Trump administration have chosen sabotage and repeal over bipartisan cooperation to fix that which is not working. I would propose we work in a bipartisan fashion, and I have three ideas.

First, introduce a public option to increase competition in marketplaces; second, we can implement premium stabilization programs in order to keep premiums affordable for everybody; and third, we can increase premium tax credits and cost-sharing subsidies to lower costs and boost enrollment for middle class Americans. That is the bipartisan solution to healthcare, not a reckless repeal effort that will deny 23 million of our fellow Americans access to healthcare.